



Arizona *National Interest Waiver Program*

Purpose

The federal National Interest Waiver (NIW) program allows foreign workers with advanced degrees, including foreign physicians (MDs), with exceptional abilities to work in the United States.

A national interest waiver granted to a foreign physician by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security exempts the foreign physician from the labor certification process administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has determined that participation in the NIW program will promote the effective use of health manpower and facilities in this state as required by A.R.S. § 36-104(16). The ADHS' participation in the NIW program will increase access to health care for the underserved residents of this state.

Eligibility

- Primary Care physicians who have obtained a J-1 visa waiver from the USCIS based on an ADHS J-1 visa waiver letter of support
- Have practiced as Arizona J-1 primary care physicians for at least 1 year immediately preceding the request for an ADHS NIW attestation letter.
- Provide outpatient primary care services on a full time basis at a qualifying service site

Qualifying Sites

- The service site must be located within a RURAL federally designated HPSA, MUA, MUP community
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or FQHC Look-A-Likes
- Rural Health Clinic
- Arizona Primary Care Program Clinic
- Correction or detention facility

Highlights:

- Seven awards made since program was re-opened (June 2005) for primary care based services.
- Foreign physicians who obtain a national interest waiver from the USCIS based on an ADHS NIW attestation letter must serve the uninsured and under-insured, regardless of ability to pay; must accept Medicaid (AHCCCS) and Medicare assignment; and must use a sliding fee schedule.

Contact Us:

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